

RICE LAKE

HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

**LaGrange Pool
Illinois Waterway River Miles
132.0 - 138.0**

**Fulton County, Illinois
Rock Island District**



LOCATION:

Rice Lake is a 6,800 acre backwater complex located 24 miles southwest of Peoria, Illinois, in Fulton County. The project lands are state owned and are managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR) as a fish and wildlife area.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- * Reestablish the Hate Levee with a riprap over-flow structure to function as the major water control facility for the entire complex;
- * Locate a pumping facility on the Illinois Waterway;
- * Excavate channels for water supply to management areas;
- * Install two fish passage structures;
- * Construct interior levees for moist soil management; and,
- * Plant mast trees and native grasses on Duck Island.

RESOURCE PROBLEM:

Increased flood and sedimentation levels have resulted in degradation of what has historically acted as excellent mid-migration waterfowl and aquatic habitat. The lack of reliable and flexible water management capability over half of the project area severely limits its effectiveness in providing feeding and resting habitat for the 2.7 million annual waterfowl use days. Habitat degradation also has negatively affected the other migratory and resident species using the facility.

PROJECT OUTPUTS:

The project goals are to enhance wetland, aquatic, and floodplain terrestrial habitat. Reestablishing the Hate Levee and installing a pumping facility for Big Lake would increase reliability and flexibility of water level management. Habitat would be improved for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and other wetland species that utilize the area. Structures for fish passage and escapement would protect aquatic habitat and maintain connectivity with deep water areas. Restoration of native prairie and mast tree species would enhance habitat for numerous floodplain terrestrial species.

FINANCIAL DATA:

General design and construction costs are estimated at \$7,355,000. In accordance with Section 906(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662), general design and construction costs would be shared on a 65% Federal/ 35% non-Federal basis. The non-Federal sponsor, the ILDNR, will assume all annual operation, maintenance, and repair costs, estimated at \$15,300.

STATUS:

The Public Review Draft Report is scheduled for distribution in May 2004.